

I want to wish each and everyone a very Happy and blessed New Year. It is amazing how fast the years are going and even more amazing to me, that I have been serving as your president for eight months. I thought that by now this job would be a piece of cake. Not so. But it is testament to how much as a club we accomplish. Looking back we have participated in National Garden Club Week with floral designs in all the libraries, received a proclamation from the mayor, attended the District X Fall Meeting where we received several awards, participated in the International Coastal Cleanup, the Veterans' Day Parade where we really strutted our stuff, hosted an FFGC Symposium, was treated to three incredible programs, submitted a hatful of awards to FFGC, and welcomed 18 new members. And that is only scratching the surface. I cannot even begin to compliment the enormous amount of work that your officers, circle presidents, and committee chairs do on a daily basis. Not only do they keep each and everything running with seemingly efficient ease, they have to document it all with endless reports and patience. And you, the members of the Garden Club of Stuart, continue to come up with new ideas and show your support in all we ask you to do.

And it is not going to get any easier. There are many things coming up that will need all of your help and fortitude. The Secret Garden Tour is looming under the auspicious leadership of Bonnie Stoepelman and her dauntless crew. There is a New member luncheon being planned by our membership chairman, Susan Licari. In March there is our participation in the Garden Expo sponsored by Jensen Beach Garden Club. Arbor Day is right around the corner with Linda Sarubbi making plans for us to participate. . A Committee has been formed to work on next year's Operating Budget as well as a committee working on updates on the ByLaws. There are specifics for all these events in the newsletter. Please read it carefully and be ready, as usual, to come forward to help.

So in closing, no, it is not a piece of cake. But let's be thankful it isn't, because, the more we do, the better our club is. And the better our club is, the more it will grow. Thank you for everything you do. I am grateful to be a part of it.